Alaska Energy Authority - Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Deployment - IIJA Competitive

FY2024 Request: **$1,670,000**
Reference No: **64644**

AP/AL: Appropriation
Project Type: Energy
Category: Development
Location: Statewide
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Contact: Curtis W. Thayer
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028
Contact Phone: (907)771-3000

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) is applying for federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding for Community-Driven Electric Vehicle Charging Deployment in Underserved Communities. The goals of this project are to increase access to vehicle electrification in multiple rural and underserved communities across Alaska; demonstrate the value of electric vehicles (EVs) to key decision makers and the wider public to accelerate the transition to clean transportation; and support the development of community charging equipment. A 20 percent match is required, shared by AEA and project partners.

Funding:	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	$1,670,000						$1,670,000
Total:	$1,670,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,670,000

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☐ Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

The IIJA funding opportunity is through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Vehicle Technologies Office Program Wide Funding Opportunity Area of Interest (AOI) 9. This request is for federal funding only. Required match will be met through AEA and project partners.

Project Description/Justification:
The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), as the prime applicant, will work with project partners to support vehicle electrification in rural, low-income, and Tribal communities across the state. The partnerships forged through this project will provide underserved communities with resources and access to EV education and technical support to ensure a more equitable transition to clean transportation. The data and partner experiences developed through this project will be used in a public education and outreach campaign to encourage EV adoption.

Alaska has one of the most undeveloped EV markets in the United States and some of the highest transportation-related costs. Its expansive geography, isolated small population, and cold environment amplify the traditional challenges for EV adoption. Most Alaskans do not have reasonable access to EV charging infrastructure to help increase market adoption. As of August 2022,

Alaska's average rural electricity rate was six times higher than the national average, and second highest in the country, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The transportation sector accounts for approximately 26.8 percent of the state's energy use, and the costs associated with transportation and energy vary significantly across urban and rural Alaska.

The AEA submitted the Alaska National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Implementation Plan to the federal Joint Office of Energy and Transportation to capture funds for Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) on Alaska's road system. This investment, along with those planned by utilities and municipalities, will begin to provide the fundamental infrastructure for the transition to clean transportation.

The project includes activities and investment in 11 energy regions that are connected by the theme of improving equitable access to Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) within the state of Alaska. The AEA will work closely with partners to maximize public benefit by offering a competitive grant opportunity with targeted outreach for each energy region, similar to the Alaska NEVI Plan, to deploy Level 2 and DCFC in rural and underserved communities. Approximately four Level 2 charging stations in each of the 11 energy regions will be installed for a total of 44 charging stations. Construction, shipping, and maintenance costs can be double that of an urban location.

The team will draft and finalize an EV charger deployment plan specific to rural and underserved communities, including community input on how to best site EVSE. This will help provide benchmarking data to fully understand and track the impact of the financial investment on the market. The AEA will prioritize locations that utilize local workforce for EVSE installation and maintenance, as well as communities with renewable energy resources to reduce transportation related emissions. The project team will solicit feedback from communities on how to best site EV chargers to provide the maximum public benefit. By deploying community-based charging through this effort, we can demonstrate and measure usage by community members and visitors. Building from the existing EV Public Involvement Plan, AEA will coordinate a robust campaign for public education and outreach about successes and lessons learned from the project.